

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 251436Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4621

INFO PAN CANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJ: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: NACR SESSION III:

CANO AND ZAMBRANO PRESENTATIONS

REF: PANAMA 4480 & 4481

1. PRESENTATION BY ENGINEER ARNALDO CANO, DIRECTOR OF PANAMA'S PORT AUTHORITY (AND GRADUATE OF WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY) WAS FOCUSED ON OPERATION OF CANAL AND AREAS REQUIRED THEREFORE. HE SAID THAT 10 PERCENT OF CANAL ZONE LAND AREA IS NOW USED FOR CANAL OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND ADMINISTRATION. HE SHOWED THE REPRESENTATIVES SLIDES OF HOUSING AREAS, LUBS, PORTS, UNUSED AREAS NEEDED BY PANAMA. THE LATTER INCLUDED TELFERS ISLAND.

2. CANO ALLEGED THAT PRIVATE USE OF PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES IN CANAL ZONE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED BY 1903 TREATY. ALTHOUGH 80 PERCENT OF THE CARGO HANDLED AT BALBOA AND CRISTOBAL PORTS IS CONSIGNED TO OR FROM PANAMA, SAID CANO, THE PORTS REMAIN UNDER US CONTROL. THE LOSS OF PANAMA'S TWO MAIN PORTS VIRTUALLY CUT IT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD. HE ALSO TOLD REPRESENTATIVES OF

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LONGSTANDING GOP POSITION THAT WORK PERFORMED ON THIRD

LOCKS PROJECT AND WIDENING THE CANAL TO TWO LANES
WERE VIOLATIONS OF 1936 TREATY.

3. AUGUSTO ZAMBRANO OF MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC POLICY DISCUSSED POPULATION GROWTH IN AREAS
NEAR THE CANAL AND ILLUSTRATED AREAS PANAMA NEEDED FOR
NATURAL URBAN GROWTH. US LAND NEEDS FOR CANAL OPERATION
ARE LESS THAN 4 PERCENT OF CANAL ZONE, TRULY
NECESSARY AREAS ARE AT THE TERMINALS, ESPECIALLY ON PACIFIC
SIDE. LAND AREAS US WAS OFFERING IN NEGOTIATIONS,
HE SAID, WERE VIRTUALLY WORTHLESS.

4. COMMENT: CANO AND ZAMBRANO PRESENTATIONS, THOUGH PRI-
MARILY TECHNICAL, UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THAT
CANAL ZONE LAND HAS FOR PANAMA. IN THIS THEIR PRESENTATIONS
WERE AT ONE WITH OTHER SPEECHES.
JORDEN

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